



Recommended calling QRGs: 7.028, 10.118/10.128/10.133, 14.058, 18.085, 21.058/21.138, 24.908, 28.058/28.158
FEA Net: 7.026 MHz 2300UTC on Saturdays, 14.054 MHz 0800UTC on Sundays
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<http://www.feacw.net/> or <http://www.fists-ea.org/> (Secondary)

NEW MEMBER

We're very pleased to welcome our latest member: Toto Wahid, YD9DRB #15277.

FISTS EAST ASIA CHAPTER 15TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD

FISTS East Asia was established in 2004. We are pleased to announce the FEA 15th Anniversary Award!

PURPOSE	The purpose of this award is to celebrate FISTS East Asia chapter 15th anniversary.
DATE	0001 UTC 1st January 2019 to 2359 UTC 31st December 2019
RULES	Usual Morse QSO with 15 different FISTS members, including at least 5 different FEA members. QSO should be had: - through the radio wave (amateur bands, A1A/A2A/F2A) or - via the internet (CWCom, Morse code over EchoLink, etc.)
EXCHANGE	RST / QTH / Name / FISTS Number (If applicable)
LOGS	For each QSO logged: Date / Call sign / Name / QTH / Band or 0 (if via the internet) / RST (T only if via the internet) / Time in UTC / FISTS Number. Logs may be in Excel, CSV, tabbed word or Cabrillo format.
GENERAL	Not only all FISTS members, worldwide, but also non-FISTS member can submit. There is no charge. This is awards with prize from donators. Your donations are welcome. Details will be announced in FEA web site; http://www.feacw.net/qrv/FEA_15th_Anniv.htm
ENTRIES TO	email to awards@fists-ea.org . Logs must be received on or before 15th January 2020.

Please click here (<http://www.feacw.net/mbr/fea-list.cgi>) to show the list of members who belong to the East Asia chapter. It is great idea to use FEA recommended calling QRGs listed above. You can use the Internet for assistance. Following sites will be useful.

FEA QRV Information: <http://www.fists-ea.org/qrv/qrvinfo.cgi>

N8FQ FISTS sked page: <http://www.n8fq.org/sked/index.php?board=fists>

ANOTHER MORSE CODE, MANABU, JE1RZR, #15020

Would like to introduce my favorite country music singer, Reina del Cid. One of her number named Morse Code features a story of girl's broken heart. She wants to send her message not by letter nor telephone but the way which we are familiar with actually but surprisingly meet in such love song. I think the monotone image CW is good for painful feeling. Enjoy to listen it and other numbers too.

Morse Code - Reina del Cid and Josh Turner; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBcr4LMF3mc>

THE SEARCH FOR THE NOISY FRIDGE !, GEORGE, 7J1ATG / VK4BGR / GW3YTC, #15076

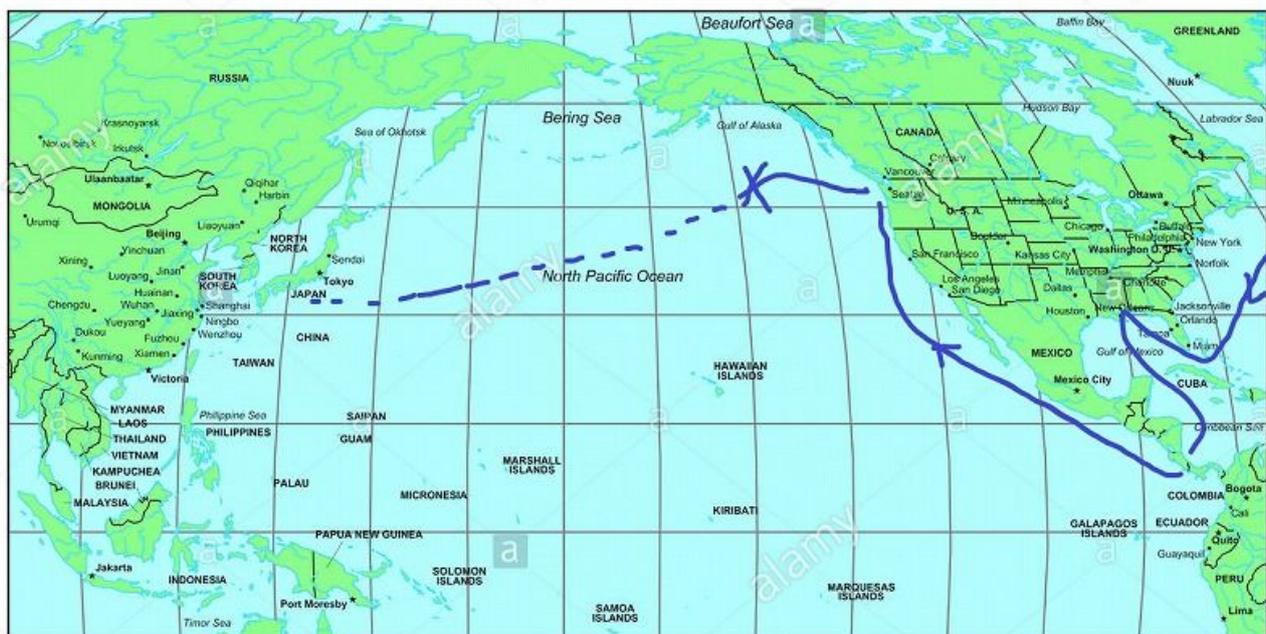
I recall the morning well - even it was some 42 years ago! I was nearly 25 years of age and serving onboard the Liberian Merchant Vessel "Carcape" (callsign 5LHN) as the (one and only) Radio Officer onboard. It was a very large new ship of the "OBO" type (Oil/Bulk/Ore) with 12 hatches of approximately 10,000 Tonne each and we had left Vancouver a couple of days earlier after a long stay anchored off awaiting coal loading at the "Roberts Banks" facility to the South of Vancouver.

Finally we were now underway and had the night before received our destination orders (by radio) so we were now bound for Japan on a misty North Pacific morning on the 4th July 1976 as I signed on to the Radio Log to begin my Radio Watch (2 hours on / 2 hours off).



MV Carcape / 5LHN

North Pacific Ocean



Route of the "MV Carcape/5LHN" (X = approximate QTH on 4th July 1976)

On turning on my main Receiver I was greeted by a loud rapid tapping like sound that seemed to cover most of the bands above 6 MHz and seemed to obscure most other signals!

The importance (and worry) about this "unexpected event" may not be fully understood unless you understand that in those days the communications via the Ships Radio Room was the ONLY means of contact with the outside world from onboard the vessel whilst at sea when at any significant distance from the coast.

Reliable communication was an essential part of the shipping world mainly for commercial matters related to cargo destinations, maintenance reporting and also for personnel matters and although we were a well equipped and modern vessel with the latest in Radio Communication Equipment onboard (including at that time a newly developed "ARQ Telex Over Radio" system with which we were taking part in evaluation tests with several Global Coast stations in the EU and USA) reliable long distance communication to our normal contact Coast Station located at Bern in Switzerland was not always that easy due to varying conditions.

Bern Radio (HEB) was a somewhat strange phenomenon, in that Switzerland is a landlocked country, yet still had a maritime radio station which created a significant signal on the HF bands. With our Company HQ being based in Geneva (Switz) HEB was our main Coast Station for all traffic to/from HQ.



Bern Radio (Call Sign HEB)

HEB's use of High Gain Log Periodic Antennae gave it a powerful signal GLOBALLY – at the right time of day/night – and in addition it worked a system of “pre scheduled” QSO nets to ensure contact for the more distance ships in addition to their normal QSO watches. It was always a nice sound to hear the powerful “HUM” of HEBs TX as they tuned up on your net frequency with the beam pointing at your location at the time of your scheduled net...when they could not even be heard on their CQ channel! As far as I know they were the only Coast Station that offered such a “personal” service!

HEB closed its Maritime Coast Station Service in 1990.

Overnight the Chief Engineer had left me the latest Engine Room Logging tapes detailing temperatures / pressures and the like and there were several other Telex messages and telegrams that had already been left in the Radio Room for my processing that morning.

But the “unusual” rapid tapping noise continued allowing very little to be heard of any on air stations!

Concern soon turned to worry and that eventually turned to PANIC as after a considerable period spent trying to hear the usual Coast Station CQ beacons or ARQ Telex net beacons - failed to hear anything much over “THE NOISE”.

No QSOs were possible at that time – nor even receiving the weather forecasteven to / from our back up stations of Mobile Alabama / San Francisco and on any of the open bands!

“Where was this noise coming from”? Finding and removing this “onboard” noise source was an urgent matter not only for commercial reasons but potentially for safety of life too!

I enlisted the help of our onboard Electrician to see if he had installed anything new overnight or may have had any idea where this noise was coming from but he had no more idea than I had at that stage!

The situation was explained to the “OLD MAN” (Captain) who immediately saw the importance of the situation and assigned three Deck Cadets to assist us in tracking the noise source down.

It was a big ship (as can be seen in the photograph) with electrical equipment located throughout the vessel – so we had a major task ahead trying to find and silence what we assumed was an “onboard” noise source.

The noise level did not seem to vary with change of antenna nor receiver which was a little puzzling and what really puzzled me was that even using a small handheld receiver with a switchable attenuator in the antenna circuit did not allow us to gain any indication of what part of the vessel the noise was originating in! Although I did notice that the noise on the handheld was less when “down below” – i.e. in the engine room.

Our small team – armed with two-way UHF radios – roamed the vessel “Bow to Stern” switching OFF on command various electrical items whilst I monitored the result in the Radio Room.

After a few hours the “NOISE” started to become intermittent with brief periods of silence (during which our usual Coast Stations could be heard). It was reassuring to know that in the absence of “THE NOISE” we could hear other stations BUT the downside of that was during the periods of no noise we could not progress the search for this “onboard” noise source!

In those early days I had very little experience in EMC (Electromagnetic Compatibility) matters particularly the tracking down of noise sources....my immediate thought was to switch OFF as many electrical items as possible “one-by-one” and see if “THE NOISE” stopped. In hindsight and based on my EMC work since that time – that was a totally

wrong approach! Indeed - the opposite approach is necessary – that is switching EVERYTHING OFF first and then ON “one-by-one” - otherwise masking by similar noise sources can lead to incorrect assumptions.

Eventually – and in a state of disbelief – we were getting towards a TOTAL SHUT DOWN of the entire ship and upon flicking the last circuit breaker to OFF and hearing “THE NOISE” still there we were at a total loss on what to do next!

Thankfully the ratio of the periods of “NOISE OFF” to “NOISE ON” had increased during the day allowing some clear periods in which I could clear some of the commercial traffic via nearby and longer distance Coast Stations and by what was now late afternoon on the 4th July I received a Service Message from Bern Radio in Switzerland announcing “an unknown source of noise” had been causing severe disruption to Global HF Communications for some hours already!

At this news - there was a sense of relief onboard and the “ON” periods appeared to be decreasing compared to the “OFF” periods.....SO A BEER SEEMED TO BE IN ORDER FOR ALL THE SEARCH TEAM!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hH6C0kun5DU> (see YouTube videos on the Russian Woodpecker)

The Woodpecker (aka DUGA) was eventually traced (by others – NOT ME!) to two sources within the then Soviet Union (one TX/RX Site in the Ukraine and one in Siberia) and was likely part of an OHR (Over the Horizon Radar) System related to detection of Missiles. Transmissions lessened over time but continued until December 1989.

Its existence was always denied by the USSR but these days the derelict sites have become a “geek” tourist destination – see <https://www.30-years-later.com/duga-radar-the-russian-woodpecker/>

There have been other similar “NOISE” sources since then - but perhaps none as bad as the Russian Woodpecker..... although the recent “RADAR” noise that can at times be heard on 7 MHz and 14 MHz needs to be carefully watched perhaps?

Enjoy your on-air time – even during these poor CONDX!

RESTORATION OF A HAMMARLUND BC779B "SUPER-PRO", TAKESHI, JA4IJJ, #15084

In the year of 2018, my most important project was restoration of a BC779B Hammarlund receiver well-known as "Super-Pro". It is still in the rebuilding process. As you can see in the photo, the front panel was as obtained. After three weeks checking the circuit and replacing capacitors, tubes etc., I believe, receiving performance was almost recovered to the original one. Now I enjoy international broadcasting service in A3 from time to time. The sound is great because of the push-pull circuit using 6L6, but to my regret, it is not the original one. Both of the input and the output transformers were broken and the replacement parts are not available. So, OPT was changed to my old stock and the input trans was replaced by a RC circuit. Surprisingly a band change mechanism and other mechanical parts were not damaged. Lubrication oil made the performance better. Frequency alignment both for IF (465 kc) and RF (100-400 kc, 2.5-20 Mc, 5 bands) was easily done although some capacitors should be changed. Anyway, thinking of the 70 years passed after construction, I am really impressed by the high technology packed there during WWII-era. BTW, the receiver is almost the same with my age.



Thank you for reading this note. Wish you FISTS friends all the best in the year of 2019. Best 73s.

MY NEW EQUIPMENT, TARO, JR0QWW, #5578

Last September, I bought new portable antenna, Alexloop antenna. This antenna is famous for its performance considering its small size. It is light weight and time for set up is less than 5 min, and especially, good for changing QRV frequency. Actually said, especially in 40 mb, it is a little difficult to have QSO, and it is depend on condition. For past two years, sometimes I went to SOTA activation, and had some QSO on the summit. So it will be good for SOTA.



SPECIAL TOPIC: LEARNING MORSE CODE

HOW I LEARNED MORSE CODES, AKI, JL1GEL, #15147

When I was a high-school student, I only had an amateur radio license which allowed me to only use phone modes. Then I became interested in Morse Code and had remembered the codes in images of combinations of dots and dashes, but I could not understand the codes by hearing.

Many years has passed and when I was in late 40s, I became interested in amateur radio again, especially in communicating in Morse Code. I decided to take the upper class amateur radio license which allowed me to use Morse Code. Because I have known hearing is more important than sending the codes, I bought CD's which oriented toward hearing skills of the codes and lessoned through the CD's. After the lesson, I used a free software "A1A Breaker" to further improve my code hearing skills. A1A Breaker is a nice freeware which can generate random Morse Codes and also generate codes from texts you put in, either in English or Japanese.



My Key Collection

After I passed the exam and listen to the real QSO's in bands, I could barely take codes and understood I had to improve my code hearing skill further more. In the beginning, I focused on so-called 599BK-style QSO's and tried as many QSO's as possible in this style. In the next stage, I began to try so-called rubber-stamp style QSO's.

I feel enjoying real QSO's is the best way to improve your code hearing skill. Don't hesitate to make mistakes and please try as many practical QSO's as possible. Practical QSO's are the best teachers and many radio amateurs are kind guys, I have to say now.

MORSE CODE PRACTICE, TAK, JS1QIZ, #15150

I learned Morse code for the first time when I decided to get my second class amateur license. Practice of the English Morse code was not so difficult. I bought a cassette tape which has a lot of short quizzes of Morse sounds. The method of the tape material was so effective and I could copy English Morse code at 12 WPM within a week or so by practicing it 15 minutes a day. Sending the code in exam was not a problem after a couple of short practice.

After getting my first Morse code license, I started studying Japanese mores code for the next step. It took one month, a bit longer than English Morse code, before I could make a slow chat on the air.

Soon after I decided to take professional license exam, I learned that Morse code practice for this was more difficult. Full dictation of English Morse code at 20 WPM without any mistake required me more than half a year's practice. The cassette tapes I used for the practice were totally damaged and I discarded them after I received the license.

Sending code at the speed of twenty words per minute with a straight key was also difficult for me. To pass the test which required this speed, I had to practice for more than one year. Starting from very slow, I speeded up little by little, practicing only 30 minutes a day, but literally every day. In the exam, I could send total of 15 minutes of messages without making any mistakes. I was very happy when my examiner said "Beautiful codes! Are you operating for Japanese coast guard?" Indeed, most of the examinees around me were operators of the coast guard. I did not say I was a Ph.D. student struggling with a calcium-binding protein for my first paper.

SUMMARY OF FEA NET IN 2018, NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

I would like to thank all the stations who joined FEA net. And I would like to thank net controllers, JK7UST, JL1GEL and JS1QIZ for their efforts to keep the net going. Because the solar cycle 24 is almost end of period, the propagation condition of HF bands is very poor. Despite such severe situation, JA4IIJ Takeshi san joined 46 times (87%) in part 1 and 7J1ATG (VK4BGR) George san joined 38 times (72%) in part 2. They deserve great praise.

You can see all results at http://www.feacw.net/qrv/FEA_Net_Result.html. We always welcome you, even if you are not an FEA member. See you at the FEA net!

	Part 1 (7 MHz)	Part 2 (14 MHz)
Total number of nets	53	53
Average participants per net (including controllers)	6.2	2.9
Number of actual participants (including controllers)	26	17
The day with most participants	11 stations (Dec 1, Dec 29)	7 stations (Sep 23)
Number of nets with no participants	0	3
The persons who participated most (excluding controllers)	JA4IIJ (46 times)	7J1ATG+VK4BGR (38 times)
The day with most countries	Jan 13, 2 countries	Sep 23, 4 countries
Countries	JA, DU	9V, BV, DU, JA, UK, VK, YB

Summary table in 2018

Call	Part 1	Part 2	Part 1+2				
VK4BGR+7J1ATG	27	38	65	DV9/K5EIE	1	2	3
JO3HPM	38	11	49	BX8AAD	0	3	3
JA4IIJ	46	0	46	7N1ICA	2	0	2
JL1GEL	23	10	33	VK5EEE	0	2	2
JK7UST	22	11	33	JE1REU	1	0	1
JS1QIZ	21	0	21	JF1TTN	1	0	1
JE1TRV+JS2AHG	12	8	20	JF6UZS	1	0	1
J11XJB	16	1	17	JJ0SFV	1	0	1
JH2HTQ	15	0	15	JL3AMK	1	0	1
JE1RZR+UK/IE1RZR	5	5	10	JR4GGT	1	0	1
JJ1TTG	7	0	7	JR7OEF	1	0	1
JG1BGT	5	0	5	9V1VV	0	1	1
J12GZC	5	0	5	BX6ABC	0	1	1
JS2DAA	5	0	5	JF3KNW	0	1	1
JA3UMK	4	0	4	JG3MKL	0	1	1
JR0QWW	4	0	4	J11LMO	0	1	1
JA4MRL	3	0	3	VK6RR	0	1	1
				YC1JCD	0	1	1

Participants list excluding controllers.

FEA CW NET RESULTS: NO. 720 TO 732, NAO, JO3HPM, #15008

No.	Date (Y/M/D)	Time (UTC)	Freq. (MHz)	Controller	Participants
732-2	2018/12/30	0800-0810	14.054	JE7YTQ	none
732-1	2018/12/29	2326-0102	7.0262	JL1GEL	JA4IIJ, JS2AHG, JS1QIZ, JE1RZR, JK7UST, 7J1ATG/2, JG1BGT, JR0QWW, JO3HPM, JJ1TTG
731-2	2018/12/23	0800-0811	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR
731-1	2018/12/22	2300-2340	7.026	JS1QIZ	JL1GEL, JA4IIJ
730-2	2018/12/16	0800-0826	14.055	JO3HPM	VK4BGR, VK5EEE
730-1	2018/12/15	2300-2338	7.026	JL1GEL	JA4IIJ, JO3HPM, JF6UZS/6, JS1QIZ
729-2	2018/12/9	0800-0818	14.054	JO3HPM	VK4BGR
729-1	2018/12/8	2300-2343	7.026	JS1QIZ	JA4IIJ, JL1GEL, JK7UST
728-2	2018/12/2	0800-	14.054	JE7YTQ	none
728-1	2018/12/1	2300-0013	7.026	JL1GEL	JO3HPM, JA4IIJ, JS1QIZ, JH2HTQ, JA3UMK, 7J1ATG/2, JK7UST, JA4MRL, JS2AHG, JJ1TTG
727-2	2018/11/25	0800-0822	14.078	JO3HPM	VK4BGR
727-1	2018/11/24	2300-2330	7.027	JS1QIZ	JA4IIJ, JI1XJB/6
726-2	2018/11/18	0800-0819	14.055	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR
726-1	2018/11/17	2300-2332	7.0265	JL1GEL	JO3HPM, JA4IIJ, JS1QIZ, JA3UMK, JS2AHG
725-2	2018/11/11	0800-0816	14.054	JO3HPM	JK7UST
725-1	2018/11/10	2300-2347	7.026	JS1QIZ	JA4IIJ, JO3HPM, JA3UMK, JL1GEL, JK7UST
724-2	2018/11/4	0800-0824	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR
724-1	2018/11/3	2300-0001	7.026	JL1GEL	JA4IIJ, JK7UST, 7J1ATG/2, JR4GGT, JS1QIZ
723-2	2018/10/28	0800-0839	14.054	JO3HPM	JE1RZR, VK4BGR
723-1	2018/10/27	2300-0010	7.029	JS1QIZ	JK7UST, JA4IIJ, JA3UMK, 7J1ATG/2, JL1GEL, JH2HTQ, JI1XJB/6, JJ1TTG, JE1RZR
722-2	2018/10/21	0800-0820	14.054	JE7YTQ	VK4BGR
722-1	2018/10/20	2300-2359	7.0255	JL1GEL	JA4IIJ, JS1QIZ, 7J1ATG/2, JK7UST, JS2DAA
721-2	2018/10/14	0800-	14.054	JE7YTQ	none
721-1	2018/10/13	2300-2356	7.026	JS1QIZ	JK7UST, JA4IIJ, 7N1ICA, JL1GEL, JO3HPM, JH2HTQ, JS2DAA, JI1XJB/6
720-2	2018/10/7	0800-0024	14.054	JO3HPM	VK4BGR
720-1	2018/10/6	2300-0013	7.0275	JL1GEL	JA4IIJ, JS1QIZ, JR0QWW, JO3HPM, 7J1ATG/2, JS2DAA

FINALE

When I learned Morse code, I used a cassette tape to listen it. At the same time, I practiced to send the code using a straight key which a local OM gave me. I wanted to operate CW mode as soon as possible after I passed the exam. To be honest, my CW operation was very poor in the early days. One day, an OM said "QSY SSB" during a CW QSO. After QSY, he kindly said "You mixed F and L. You seemed you didn't master Morse code correctly." I would like to say sorry and thank you to all the stations who worked me patiently such days. You have nothing to fear. Practice (real QSO) makes perfect. 73/88 and stay sober de Nao.